

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

A LETTER FROM THE HUNGARIAN AMBASSADOR

HON. ERNEST J. ISTOOK, JR.

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 5, 2000

Mr. ISTOOK. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following letter from the Hungarian Ambassador into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

THE AMBASSADOR OF HUNGARY,
October 4, 2000.

Hon. ERNEST J. ISTOOK, Jr.,
U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN ISTOOK: I am deeply moved when I express my heartfelt gratitude to you and your distinguished Colleagues in the House of Representatives on the adoption of H. Con. Res. 400 congratulating my country, Hungary, on the 1000th anniversary of its statehood. I am particularly indebted to Congressman Frank Pallone, who initiated the resolution, and your 29 Colleagues, who joined you as co-sponsors.

The eloquence and historical depth of the resolution will surely impress all my compatriots, as well as hundreds of thousands of Americans of Hungarian descent. Being a historian myself and as someone who lived through a greater part of the 20th century, which brought so much misfortune to my people, I also very much appreciate the words used by you and your colleagues in approving the resolution. On this occasion let me share a few ideas with you on the links that bind your great nation of America with Hungary.

The people of Hungary have been admirers of the United States for well over two centuries. We, too, have fought for our freedom and independence several times during these centuries. We felt your nation's sympathy in many difficult periods, particularly in 1848/49 and 1956. In 1978 the United States returned the Holy Crown of St. Stephen, kept in safety at Fort Knox since 1945, to the Hungarian people, boosting our morale and pride in our history, thus contributing to the process which led to the peaceful transformation of the political system of Hungary in 1989/90.

I am pleased to say that we, Hungarians, are not alone in celebrating the establishment of the State. Like the United States, Hungary is also a nation of immigrants. When our ancestors moved into the Carpathian Basin they soon absorbed its sparse Slavic and Turkic population. Later on we welcomed many individuals and whole national groups in search of a better life and more freedom. Thus credit for the achievements of our thousand year old history goes not only to our Founding Fathers, but to all those who joined our nation through the centuries, embraced our culture and language and enriched us immensely with their industry, knowledge, culture and traditions. Among our neighbors, the Slovaks shared a

common state with the Hungarians for over 1000 years, and the

The bust of Louis Kossuth, Governor of revolutionary Hungary in 1849, and later a refugee most warmly received in the United States in 1851/52, stands in one of the hallways of the Capitol. The dream of Kossuth and so many other Hungarians has come true: our two nations have become allies. We are working together to turn South-Eastern Europe, a region of conflicts, into a stable and prosperous one. We are fighting jointly against international crime and terrorism, and the rights of people oppressed. We count on your support in our efforts to seek the safeguarding of the rights of close to three million Hungarians residing in the states bordering on Hungary.

A historian of ancient Rome, Sallustius, stated: "Truly not armies nor treasurers are the safeguards of a kingdom, but friends." We, Hungarians, have a modest army and small wealth, but a great friend in the United States. We are grateful for your friendship and for the resolution which is such a beautiful testimony of that.

Sincerely yours,
GEZA JESENSZKY.

REPUBLIC OF CHINA NATIONAL DAY

HON. COLLIN C. PETERSON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 6, 2000

Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, our long time ally and close friend, the Republic of China on Taiwan, will be celebrating its 89th anniversary on October 10th.

Just like our 4th of July, their National Day marks the beginning of a fantastic story of struggles and triumphs—a story of economic miracles, social and political progress, and cultural leadership unlike any other. The National Day celebrates the past successes and ongoing efforts of a group of people committed to the idea that all citizens should be able to participate in the politics of the country they live in.

This October 10th is especially poignant because it marks the first time that newly elected President Chen Shui Bien will lead the celebration. Both President Chen and his Vice President Annette Lu have been working hard to continue to strengthen the bonds between the United States and Taiwan.

In my state of Minnesota we know that those bonds go beyond issues of national security and foreign policy minutiae. In my district we see how those ties connect with our agricultural economy. Last year the Republic of China on Taiwan pledged to purchase over

\$1 Billion dollars worth of grain, much of it out of the Red River Valley of the North in northwestern Minnesota. The previous year they pledged to buy \$1.1 Billion over 12 months, and that goal was actually reached in less than 9 months. They have been good customers for the farmers in my district and I look forward to seeing that continue in future years.

Taiwan has built its relationship with the government and people of the United States by being a good international citizen. I congratulate the Republic of China on Taiwan and its people on their 89th National Day, and look forward to many years of close ties between our two nations.

GENERAL PULASKI MEMORIAL DAY PROCLAMATION

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 6, 2000

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize that October 11th marks the 221st anniversary of the death of a Polish military hero who sacrificed his life in the fight for American liberty, General Casimir Pulaski. Every year, Poles and Americans alike honor this great man, known as the "Father of American Cavalry," for his dedication to the cause of freedom, and his brave contributions to both the American Revolution and the fight for Poland's independence.

General Pulaski was a romantic figure and brilliant military strategist, known throughout Europe for his valiant defense of Poland's freedom from the imperialism of Russia and Prussia. Eventually outnumbered in the fight for Poland, Pulaski was exiled to Paris, where Benjamin Franklin recruited him to join the American Revolution.

Pulaski quickly established himself as a talented and effective military leader at the battle of Brandywine under George Washington. Recognizing his potential, Congress granted Pulaski an independent cavalry, which became an entity feared and respected by British foes.

On October 11, 1779, Pulaski crusaded for freedom one last time during the siege of Savannah. Galloping to the rescue of a fellow commander, Pulaski was mortally wounded by British cannon fire. He died the way he lived—freely, valiantly, and purposefully.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of all Americans, allow me to pay tribute to this great Polish man to whom, in part we owe our freedom.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.